

1902. "Battambang" Typewritten Surcharges.10 Atts on 12 Atts.? Forgery.

The stamp shown below shows certain important differences from all other known copies, which seem to point to its being at least of doubtful authenticity.

1. The Surchage, although typewritten in Siamese characters, as in the other cases, here consists of "10 Atts" only, arranged as in the 1901's Official Surcharges, and not as in any of the previous overprinted issues of Siam. It would seem unlikely that the Battambang Postmaster would go out of his way to adopt an entirely new style of Surchage after 15 years' experience of the old style on Official stamps, and after having, just before, made use of that same style for a similar emergency issue, and stranger still that he should have pitched upon the precise arrangement that should be adopted officially two years later. On the other hand, it is quite reasonable to suppose that a forger, preparing, after some years' interval, copies of a rare typewritten provisional of whose existence he knew, but of whose precise details he was ignorant, should adopt the style of surcharge then in use officially.
2. The shade of the surcharge is somewhat different to that of genuine copies, but this may very easily be explained by the difference of date.
3. The date on the postmark is more than a month later than the first issue of the typewritten surcharges, and it seems incredible to suppose that copies of these temporary stamps were passing through the Bangkok Office for so long quite unnoticed. (It is known that the Authorities in Bangkok took steps to stop the use of the typewritten provisionals as soon as they discovered their existence.



4. It is somewhat doubtful whether the surcharge is beneath the postmark.